

**17th December 2023**

**Prayer Letter**

* ***Merciful God ,*** *may Your blessing be upon all those who are in pain or sickness, those who are anxious or troubled, those affected by a breakdown in the family, by domestic abuse and those affected by divorce. We give into Your hands those struggling with addictions and those in mental or spiritual turmoil.. We pray too for those who are lonely and feel isolated. May they feel Your presence, may we feel Your presence when we pass through the dark places, and sustain all those we pray for, and ourselves , in Your unfailing love, we offer these prayers in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.* (based on C of E S prayers)

Name before God those known personally to you who need God’s healing touch at this time.

**Gracious God,** may those who have died be granted the peace of Your heavenly Kingdom. Give rest to the souls of those who gone from our lives to meet with You and may they now, released from pain or sorrow, find life eternal at rest in Your presence.

Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer**. (C of E S)

* ***"The Lord bless you and keep you.***

***The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.***

***The Lord turn His face to you***

***and give you His peace."***

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**3rd Sunday in Advent**



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It can be difficult to pray in a world that seems so dark at this time. The sad reality is life doesn’t always get better and better BUT there is a light that will never fail – the only One who can lead us out of the dark into the light of life.

Let us pray for the world, the Church, our families and friends, for ourselves, for those in need, for those who are ill and for those who are close to death.

***Lord, hear us as we pray,***

* For the leaders of Churches across our nation and here in Lancashire for our Bishops Philip and Jill.
* For all the Clergy of our Church and their families**,** for our Vicar Dave, for L J and for David in his Associated Ministry with us. For Steve and Lisa, for their Ministry in our Church and in India.
* For Nicola our Church Warden in all she does in her role & in our community.
* For our LLM’s and ALM’s and those who have a ministry with the sick, the homeless and housebound.
* For Marlis in her missionary work overseas.
* For Denise in her forthcoming ministry in Urban Mission.
* For members of our Church who serve You, often in many often-unnoticed important ways, in our Church & amongst the people of our Parish and our town.

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit into all the dark places of the world and shine your light of love, mercy and peace, we pray – the light that no darkness can extinguish. Amen.

In this Prayer Letter you will see ‘C of E S’ noted besides some of the prayers – this is because they are from the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy – Church of England in Spain, reproduced with grateful thanks to our brothers and sisters there.

***Lord, hear us as we pray…….***

Father God, your Son Jesus Christ lived an ordinary life in Nazareth, with human parents, brothers and sisters. He understands the difficulties faced in families. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families and strengthening our community life. We especially pray for our family members who have not heard of the coming of Christ and that this Christmas they may hear and believe the Good News and received the gift of the Christ Child. (C of E S)

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we continue this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in times of joy and pleasure as well as we do when faced with fear and sorrow. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer** (C of E S)

*From the Archbishops of Canterbury and York – a Prayer for Ukraine*

God of peace and justice,

We pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear tomorrow, that Your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war and peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all we pray for Your precious children, at risk and in fear, that You would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.

***Lord hear us as we pray***

**In compassion for all refugees**, whose lives in their homelands have become intolerable and dangerous due to war, oppression, famine and climate change.

*O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.
We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.
Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful*

*and comfort the grieving.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**We pray for all Christians in many parts of our world who are at risk of persecution, torture and death for their faith in You Lord Jesus.**

We pray for all people around the world trying to rebuild their lives and homes after war, natural disasters and the effects of human greed.

**Hebrews 4: 16**

”Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence,

so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

